

MARICOPA COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR JUNE 19, 2002

- 1) **The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Stapley at 1:12 P. M.**
- 2) **Attendance roll call taken by Suzanne Gray. A quorum was not present at roll call.**

Members Present

Laurel Arndt
Jim Duncan
Bruce Ellison
Robert Jones
Supervisor Andrew Kunasek
Bill Miles for Carol Erwin
Fred Pfeifer
Supervisor Don Stapley
Felipe Zubia

Members Absent

James Burke
Bill Lanford
Art Wirtz

Ex-Officio Members Present

Tom Buick
Mike Ellegood
Joy Rich
William Scalzo

- 3) **Approval of the Minutes from March 27, 2002 Regular Meeting and June 5, 2002 Study Session Passed unanimously.**
A motion to approve the minutes was made by Supervisor Kunasek. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arndt.
- 4) **Adopt the Maricopa County Regional Trail System Plan for the Pilot Project Area – Reed Kempton, MCDOT Bicycle Multi/Modal Planner**

Reed pointed out the changes that had been made to the Plan since the Study Session including the Vision statement, Goals and Policies, and Implementation Plan. In addition, a section was added to explain the relationship of the proposed Trail System to the Maricopa County Comprehensive Plan. Additional changes included designating the Maricopa Parks & Recreation Department as the agency responsible for the Maricopa County Regional Trail System, preparing a budget request to fund the remainder of the corridor studies, hire appropriate planning staff to complete the corridor studies, hire a program manager (who will work with MCDOT, Parks & Recreation, Planning and Development, and Flood Control) to implement the Maricopa County Trail System Plan, implement departmental policies to protect the Regional Trail for future development, complete the formation of an appropriate non-profit foundation that will support the Maricopa County Regional Trail System, develop criteria to prioritize trail segments for acquisition and development, and develop a marketing strategy for the Trail System.

Jeanette Fish, Maricopa County Farm Bureau, asked about private land donations to the Trail System. There was considerable discussion by various members clarifying what types of donations would be expected. Supervisor Kunasek pointed out that very little of the land involved in the initial Pilot Project Area involves private property. Most of it is already in some form of government ownership. Donations would only be expected if a property owner was looking for up-zoning. In these cases, the County would require the property owner to include the regional trail if it was designated as part of the plan.

After discussion, additional changes were made to the Vision statement, Goals and Policies, and Design Guidelines. The changes were so noted by Commission Secretary Patti Suman. A motion was made by Commissioner Ellison to adopt the Maricopa County Regional Trail System Plan as revised. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones.

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Passed unanimously.

5) Draft Schedule of Trail System Corridor Studies and Reaches – Russ Miracle, Flood Control District Planning Branch Manager

Russ presented the Commission with an Implementation Schedule for the entire proposed Trail System. This presentation included detailed timelines on those portions of the regional trail plan where future work is programmed. He pointed out that the final alignments that were included in Phase 1 of the Trail System are significantly different than the original concept, therefore the details for Phase II and III are incomplete at this time. Commission members should be aware that there could also be significant changes to Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the proposed Trail System.

6) Review Proposed Budget to complete Regional Trail System Plan – Tim Oliver, MCDOT Systems Planning Manager

Tim presented the Commission with two alternatives for a proposed budget to complete the Regional Trail System Plan. He presented a 15-month Completion Plan and a 24-month Completion Plan. He recommends the 24-month Plan for successful completion. Funding for the Plan will enable milestones and action to occur during that 24-month period. The 24-month Completion Plan will need a budget of \$250,000 per year to fund the hiring of two planners, special duty pay for the supervisor of these two planners, hiring a Trails Director, computer needs, training and program seed money.

After discussion, Supervisor Kunasek made a motion to recommend the 24-month plan as presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ellison.

Passed unanimously.

7) Change from original agenda (Item 8 moved to Item 7) – Name the Trail Update – Commissioner Arndt representing Commissioner Burke

Commissioner Arndt (on behalf of Commissioner Burke) presented the Commission with the submissions (264 responses) of proposed names for the Maricopa County Trail System. The top four names were:

- Maricopa Trail
- Maricopa Interconnected Trail System (MITS)
- Mountain Vistas Trail
- Desert View Trail

Chairman Stapley advised Commission Members to review the submitted names for the Trail System and proposed that the selection of the Trail name be an action item at the next Trail Commission regular meeting.

8) Potential Trail Funding Mechanisms – Stacey Niles, Parks Grants Administrator

Stacey presented the Commission with some potential funding options. Traditionally, the funding of choice has been the State Parks Board Grant Programs, i.e., State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF) and the Heritage Fund. However, these may no longer be available due to dwindling resources.

Possible new funding mechanisms include partnerships with neighboring communities and special interest groups and the creation of a 501(c) 3 (not for profit) organization.

She recommends identifying a Board of Directors for the organization and hiring a Trail Director to coordinate with the different agencies, and acquire corporate sponsorships and individual donations.

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Supervisor Stapley recommended the Commission members work closely with Stacey to discuss possible Board of Director members.

Commissioner Ellegood reminded members that funds to operate and maintain the Trail System must be considered when seeking funding.

9) Call to the Commission

Supervisor Kunasek spoke on potential trail maintenance costs. He feels that the trails will largely maintain themselves.

10) Call to the Public

Theresa Thraen, Rio Verde Horseman's Association spoke in support of the proposed Trail System and the possible future linkage to one of the Rio Verde Horseman's Association's existing trails.

Jim Crook, member, Arizona State Horsemen's Association, Board of Directors expressed concern for any liabilities the County would have. Terry Eckhardt, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, stated that there is a specific Arizona statute relating to this, which he will review.

Jeanette Fish, Maricopa County Farm Bureau, stated that the farming community has also expressed their concerns about liability issues.

11) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 P. M.